1; Cunningham G-3 (1846-47) 1854 AJ4 W. Tibetans AJ4



582 woman; while the Ladáki girl is rarely married before
●165 she is about seventeen or eighteen years of age. The advantage of this practice is best appreciated by a reference to the tables of longevity, which show that for every Balti woman who reaches the patriarchal age of threescore years and ten, there are no less than three Ladáki septagenarian ladies. That this difference is not due to the climate, or to particular customs which might affect both sexes, is further shown by the same tables; from which we learn that for every Balti man who reaches seventy years of age there are only two Ladákis. The difference must therefore be due to some cause which affects the women only; and this cause I presume to be the very early marriages of the Musalmani females.

## II.—ORIGIN.

174 The Botis, or Bhotiyas,* are usually considered as a distinct race of people, chiefly I believe on account of their peculiar language. But this peculiarity must have been partly produced by their isolated position, and partly by the few wants of a poor people; as both of these causes must have operated against the introduction and naturalization of foreign words. Regarding their origin, therefore, nothing but a conjecture can be
144 hazarded. Judging from their language and features, which have much in common with those of the Chinese, the Bo[illegible]s must be pronounced to be an offshoot of the
177 great Mongolian race; and all differences, both physical

* *Bhotiya* is the Hindu name. The Tibetans call themselves *Botpa*, *Bod-pa*. The name is most probably derived from their profession of Buddhism, *Bauddha* being the designation of a Buddhist.

1: Cunningham G-3 (1846-47) 1854 AJ4 W. Tibetans AJ4



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| | Facial angle. | Cranial capacity. | Weight. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | lb. oz. |
| Male ... ... ... | 73·5° | 97 | 1 14·4* |
| | | Cubic in. | |
| 1st Female ... ... ... | 85° | 68 | 1 5·2 |
| 2nd Female ... ... | 84° | 67·5 | |
| Average Female ... ... | 84·5° | 67·75 | |

## LONGEVITY.

●165 One of the most interesting subjects of inquiry which I pursued daily in Ladák was the extreme ages attained by the oldest people in all the villages in my route. To test the value of the information thus collected, I have added to the following table the number of persons per cent. of each sex who reach the respective ages of seventy, eighty, and ninety years throughout the whole of Great Britain. The table requires little explanation. The first and second columns give the actual number of males and females in the several villages where the ages of the people were ascertained. It is necessary that this should be stated, as it will at once account for the great per-centage of females in Rukchu who had passed the patriarchal age of seventy. The number is 2·45 per cent., or three out of 122. But the general average is still much below that of Britain; and I feel satisfied that the whole table gives a very fair approximation to the truth. I have added a column showing the duration of life in Balti and the small Musalman states on the

* This very large skull wants the lower jaw, and has only three teeth in the upper jaw; but the bone of the skull averages about one quarter of an inch in thickness. The whole weight, if complete, would be nearly 2½ lb.

1: Cunningham G-3 (1846-47) 1854 AJ4 W. Tibetans AJ4



● 165 Indus. The differences between this and the average of the Ladákis can only be accounted for by the general dissoluteness of all Musalmáns, and the consequent spread of loathsome and fatal diseases.

TABLE OF LONGEVITY PER CENT.

| | Numbers. | | 70 to 80. | | 80 to 90. | | 90 to 100. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. |
| Rukchu..... | 113 | 122 | 0·880 | 2·459 | 0·880 | 0·820 | — | — |
| Spiti ..... | 686 | 751 | 1·157 | 1·164 | 0·291 | 0·693 | — | — |
| Ladák ..... | 1,342 | 1,492 | 0·745 | 0·670 | 0·447 | 0·268 | 0·074 | — |
| Purik..... | 867 | 883 | 1·268 | 0·905 | 0·807 | 0·792 | 0·115 | 0·113 |
| Nubra ..... | 788 | 1,030 | 1·269 | 2·336 | 0·507 | 0·777 | 0·127 | 0·194 |
| Average .... | 3,796 | 4,278 | 1·064 | 1·507 | 0·586 | 0·670 | 0·063 | 0·061 |
| Balti, &c. .... | 13,662 | 13,387 | 0·537 | 0·527 | 0·184 | 0·175 | 0·070 | 0·022 |
| Great Britain | | | 2·218 | 2·401 | 0·700 | 0·756 | 0·059 | 0·074 |

I heard of only one person who was more than 100 years of age. She was an old nun of Sakté, in the Chimra valley, whose sons were seventy and eighty years old. She was said to be 110 years of age. I had no means of ascertaining the rate of mortality; but different people stated the annual number of deaths at Lé at from twenty-five to fifty, or about forty persons. As the population of the capital is nearly 4,000 persons, the annual mortality will be rather more than one per cent. The population of the country, except in times of war or disease, remains nearly stationary; but this is not owing to any unhealthiness of climate, but to the system of polyandry, which most effectually checks any increase. In 1822 the number of houses in Spiti was 267,* and in 1847 the number was 262.

* Trebeck in Moorcroft, II. p. 71.